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upon matters of great weight in the common law by consulting each other in a great and dubious case. The author suggests that the House of Lords might desire the judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, by some indirect process, if not directly, and as a matter of personal favor, to communicate their collective or individual opinions on any question of general law. These American opinions, says Sir Frederick Pollock, would have been especially valuable in a case like that of *Dalton v. Angus*.

The lecture upon "The Foundations of Justice" may be mentioned as an example of the method of the book. By curious examples it traces, through the most primitive tribunals of the thirteenth century to the seemingly unrelated ones of to-day, a continuity of four fundamental conceptions of the common law. The courts of justice are public; they judge between parties, and do not undertake an official inquiry, not even in criminal cases or in affairs of state; the court itself is the only authorized interpreter of the law which it administers, and there is no personal or official privilege against its jurisdiction.

P. D.

BABYLONIAN AND ASSYRIAN LAWS, CONTRACTS, AND LETTERS.

By C. H. W. JOHNS, M.A. Pp. xxii + 424. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1904.

This is the sixth of the nine volumes of the "Library of Ancient Inscriptions" which are now being published under the general editorship of Charles Foster Kent and Frank Knight Sanders, both of Yale University. Each volume is written by an authority in the special department of which it treats, and the series forms one comprehensive whole which renders available for the student and general reader the original texts and documents of Egypt, Assyria, and Babylonia.

The present volume on "Babylonian and Assyrian Laws, Contracts, and Letters" is of special value to the legal profession. From these documents we are able to observe the system of jurisprudence and the customs of a civilization which antedates those of Rome, Greece, and Palestine. It yet remains to be determined to what extent we are actually indebted for our legal institutions to the peoples who once dwelt in Mesopotamia.

From the inscriptions which have been thus far translated we learn of the existence of a complicated system of law courts, judges, and witnesses; of the law governing marriage and divorce, inheritance and dower, of public rights and the duties of individuals to serve in the army and of riparian own-

ers to dredge the canals; of the system of land tenure; of how sales, loans, pledges, and guarantees were made; and of partnership, power of attorney, and the legal rate of interest.

The volume by Mr. Johns is divided into two parts. In the first he treats in twenty-nine chapters the Laws and Contracts. The ten chapters of the second part are devoted to Babylonian and Assyrian letters. An appendix follows containing a Bibliography, a Chronology, and Tables of Weights and Measures. Foot-notes, side headings on the margins, and a complete index show that the volume has been carefully edited. *A. S. F.*

COPYRIGHT CASES: A SUMMARY OF LEADING AMERICAN DISCUSSIONS ON THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT AND ON LITERARY PROPERTY FROM 1891 TO 1903; TOGETHER WITH THE TEXT OF THE UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT STATUTE AND A SELECTION OF RECENT COPYRIGHT DECISIONS OF THE COURTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA. By ARTHUR S. HAMLIN. Published for The American Publishers' Copyright League. Octavo. Pp. 237. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1904.

Nothing need be added to this voluminous title by way of explanation of the nature of this book. Suffice it to say that the cases have been compiled and arranged with more care than is usual with case-books; immaterial portions of cases have been omitted, and long-winded opinions have been judiciously threshed to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Containing, as it does, reports of all decisions rendered by American courts since the enactment of the International Copyright Law of 1891, as well as a selection of English decisions, the book is a valuable contribution to this much neglected but most important branch of the law. *R. B. E.*

OSGOODE HALL REMINISCENCES OF THE BENCH AND BAR. By JAMES CLELAND HAMILTON, of the Toronto Bar. Pp. 196. Toronto: The Carswell Company, Limited. 1904.

Mr. J. C. Hamilton, of the Toronto Bar, here presents us with a most interesting account of Osgoode Hall itself and the associations which cluster around it. The amusing anecdotes, entertaining incidents, and pleasant stories told with a deft touch of sentiment underlying all must combine to endear the book to those to whom the Hall is familiar or who have been connected with it in any way. For this class of persons it